



Feb. 21, 2012

FTR

Senator Joseph Crisco and Representative Robert Megna, Co-Chairs  
Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Legislative Office Building – Room 2800  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RSB -97 An Act Concerning Breast Ultrasound Screening**

Dear Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and Members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee:

My name is Nancy M. Cappello and I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Are You Dense, Inc. and Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc., in support of **RSB-97 - An Act Concerning Breast Ultrasound Screening**. I apologize for not testifying at the Public Hearing today; as I am flying home from Florida where I participated in a media and training program with Boca Raton Regional Hospital radiologists about our landmark legislation in Connecticut concerning dense breast tissue.

In 2005, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to mandate insurance coverage for whole breast ultrasound screening for women with dense breast tissue. The members of this Legislature understood the importance of using ultrasound, in addition to mammography, for women with dense breast tissue. Research demonstrates that mammography misses 50% of cancers in women with dense breast tissue and, by adding the additional ultrasound, substantially increases cancer detection in women with dense breast tissue. These cancers are typically found at an early stage when most treatable and survivable.

Connecticut data on ultrasound screening for dense breasts were presented in November, 2011 in Chicago at the Radiological Society of North America's (RSNA) Scientific Assembly. Findings demonstrated a 64% increase in cancer detection. This is a major advance in early detection and is why Connecticut is hailed as the leader in breast cancer detection for women with dense breast tissue. The data also show that less than 50% of women with dense breast tissue in Connecticut are opting for the additional ultrasound. While we do not know the reasons why women are not choosing the added ultrasound screening, we suspect the predominant reason is the expense which, unlike mammography, is subject to a copayment or deductible. I often hear from women that the cost of their deductible prohibits them from benefitting from the screening. For many of these women, this could be the difference between a deadly later stage cancer and a curable early stage cancer.

I ask for your support of RSB-97 which will give women with dense breast tissue, regardless of their ability to pay, equal access to an ultrasound screening for the early detection of breast cancer. I thank you for leading the nation and the world in the prevention of later stage cancers for women with dense breast tissue.

Sincerely,

*Nancy M. Cappello*

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President and Founder  
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